FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

VITO MARCANTONIO

PART 1 OF 12

FILE NUMBER : 100-28126

1

1 of 4

~~Work Copy~~

I PCI Copy

Vito Marcantonio

100-28126

Sections: 1 & 2

964 Total pages

COMMITTEE FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF CONGRESSMAN VITO MARCANTONIO

VITO MARCANTONIO, of New York, has been in the forefront of the struggle against social injustice, both in Congress and at home.
—*The Nation*, January 1, 1936, Honor Roll

1754 LEXINGTON AVENUE
(Corner 109th Street)
NEW YORK CITY
TELEPHONE LEhigh 4-0717

October 3, 1936

Dear Mr. Matthews:

"It would be nothing short of a terrible misfortune if Marcantonio were not returned to Congress. His record ought to win him such gratitude as would leave no question concerning an election outcome", Senator Gerald P. Nye wired us. Telegrams and letters pouring in from Marcantonio's home district in lower Harlem, New York, and every section of the country voice similar sentiments.

The reason is to be found in Marcantonio's amazing record. His sponsors know the splendid fight he has made in and out of Congress for preservation of civil liberties, the rights of labor, for adequate social insurance, for a fair amount of relief for the unemployed, for the striking seamen, for silicosis victims. They know of his record of struggle against repressive legislation, child labor, war appropriations, lynching, sub-standard wages.

We know that you, like those whose names appear on this letterhead, want to see Marcantonio in Congress again. To do that, 35,000 voters in his district must be made aware of the services he has rendered. This requires a tremendous amount of printing, postage, halls, speakers, telephones. This in turn requires money to bring this message to their doors.

The dark reactionaries - Hearst, the Liberty Leaguers, the Ku-Klux-Klansmen, Chambers of Commerce - have no difficulty in financing the election of their candidates.

We can only appeal to you and all friends of the progressive cause which are linked with Marcantonio's name won't you do your share? You can help keep Marcantonio in Congress with your financial support. Please send your check immediately, made payable to Mr. Henry Neumann, Treasurer.

Sincerely yours,

Morris L. Ernst, Chairman

"Marcantonio is the most valuable member of the House, bar none."—Professor Robert Morss Lovett

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 29, 1930.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

The United States Attorney for the southern district of New York has recommended the appointment of Mr. Vito Marcantonio as Assistant United States Attorney in his office.

Mr. Marcantonio resides at 235 East 116th Street, New York City, and his law office is at 20 Vesey Street.

The District Attorney states that Mr. Marcantonio is a graduate of the De Witt Clinto High School and received his law degree from the New York University Law School; that prior to his admission to the bar, he served in the office of Foster, La Guardia & Cutler; that he was admitted in July, 1926; was subsequently associated with Mr. Nicholas De Pasquale at 220 Broadway; is now engaged in general practice and associated with Michale F. Pinto at 20 Vesey Street.

Please conduct the usual inquiry.

Respectfully,

Charles P. Sisson

Charles P. Sisson
Assistant Attorney General.

X1

Called New York 7-30-30

RECORDED & INDEXED

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 29 1930
P. M.
Div. Two
FILE

Department of Justice

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 7—1003

NEW YORK N. Y. AUGUST 2, 1930.

DIRECTOR BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON D C

RE VITO MARCANTANIO CANDIDATE FOR ASSISTANT U S ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT NEW YORK AGE TWENTY SEVEN BORN NEWYORK RECEIVED LAW DEGREE NEW YORK UNIVERSITY NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE ADMITTED NEW YORK BAR NINETEEN TWENTY SIX ENGAGED PRACTICE OF LAW ASSOCIATED WITH ONE MICHAEL PINTO NEWYORKCITY REPORTED AS HAVING GOOD CIVIL PRACTICE BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS CONSIDERED AS POSSESSING EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY AS LAWYER GOOD ORATOR STOP IS PRESIDENT LAGUARDIA REPUBLICAN CLUB NEWYORK AND ACTIVE AS SOCIAL WORK STOP NOTHING DEROGATORY TO CHARACTER REPUTATION NOT USER OF INTOXICANTS BUT REPORTED LIBERAL IN VIEWS ON ENFORCEMENT EIGHTEENTH AMENDMANT TO EXTENT NOT IN SYMPATHY WITH PROHIBITION ALTHOUGH PERSONS INTERVIEWED OF OPINION WOULD ENFORCE LAW STOP FEDERAL JUDGES CONTRACTED DO NOT KNOW CANDIDATE

SPEARS ACTING

100-28126-X21

RECORDED

RECEIVED AND DECODED BY WS

AUG 5 1930

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DIVISION SEVEN

AUG - 2 1930 PM

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 5 1930 A M

Div. Two FILE

August 4, 1930.

WAM:AM
~~72-6040-1~~

AUG 5 1930

RECORDED

100-28126-X2

77-6640

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SISSON

With reference to the investigation now being conducted regarding Mr. VITO MARCANTANIO - Candidate for Position as Assistant U. S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, there is attached hereto for your information, a copy of a telegram dated August 2, 1930, which the Bureau has received from the New York Office.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Assistant Director.

Encl. #420709.

X2

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEW YORK CITY

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE WHEN MADE:	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:	REPORT MADE BY:
NEW YORK CITY	8/4/30	7/30-8/4/30	H. G. LESLIE

TITLE:	CHARACTER OF CASE:
VITO MARCANTONIO	CANDIDATE FOR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY, S. D. N.Y.

New York File No.77-172

77-6640

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Candidate is twenty-seven years of age, born in New York, received law degree New York University 1925. He was admitted to New York Bar in 1925. He is at present engaged in the practice of law with one Michael Pinto, New York City. He is reported as having a good civil practice both State and Federal Court. He is considered as possessing exceptional ability as a lawyer. He is a good orator and is president of the LaGuardia Republican Club, New York. He is also active as a social worker. Nothing derogatory against character or reputation. Liberal in his views on enforcement of the 18th Amendment to extent that he is not in sympathy with prohibition. All persons interviewed are of the opinion that Candidate would enforce the Federal law regarding 18th Amendment.

cc with letter to Herman Lieberman by letter 1-5-31 FOIPA/EL

C.

REFERENCE: Telegram of C. C. Spears, Acting Agent in Charge, New York, August 2, 1930.

DETAILS :

DETAILS: In accordance with telephonic communication received from Mr. McSwain of the Bureau July 30, 1930 to conduct confidential, discreet investigation as to the character, reputation, ability and personal qualifications of the above named Candidate for position as Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of New York, agent interviewed Mr. Michael F. Pinto, attorney, 20 Vesey Street, New York City, with whom Candidate is associated at the present time. Mr. Pinto stated that he has known Candidate intimately for about 3½ years; that he had been associated with him in the practice of law at 120 Broadway for about 1½ years. He

100-28126-X2

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:		RECORDED AND INDEXED:
C. C. Spears, Acting Special Agent in Charge		AUG 6 1930
COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: 3 - Bureau, 2 - New York, cy. Simon 8-7-30	BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AUG 6 - 1930 A.M. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	CHECKED OFF: AUG 8 1930 JACKETED:
SH	ROUTED TO: Div. Two FILE	

stated Candidate is a very high class young man; that he has a high regard for the ethics of the law profession; he has a fine character; that he has exceptional ability for a young lawyer, particularly good on trial work, appeals and motions; has had some federal practice and has several cases pending in the Circuit Court of Appeals at the present time. He states Candidate presents a good appearance, is a fine public speaker and is known as the "boy orator." Mr. Pinto stated that Candidate has been married five years and formerly resided at the Harlem House, Social Center, 311 East 116th Street, where his, Candidate's wife, Mrs. Marcantonio is assistant director of social work. Candidate is also engaged in social work and taught classes in English and citizenship at the Harlem House. His present address is 235 East 116th Street, New York City. He stated that Candidate was born in New York and attended public schools and the DeWitt Clinton Highschool from which he graduated. He later attended New York University, took up a course in law, graduating therefrom July 1926. He received a L.L.B. Mr. Pinto stated that Candidate does not drink; that he is liberal in his views concerning prohibition. He stated that he cannot recommend Candidate too highly as to character, reputation and qualifications for position sought.

Nicholas D. Pasquale, attorney, 220 Broadway, stated he went to school with Candidate at the Harlem House and has known him since 1916; that after Candidate was admitted to the Bar they formed a law partnership which continued for about two years; that at the present time Candidate is associated with Michael F. Pinto. He stated Candidate is a very fine, upright, young man, possesses sterling qualities as a man and lawyer; that he is an exceptionally good trial lawyer for a young man and has had quite some civil practice as well as federal practice; he is argumentative, tenacious, has a keen mind and is a particularly fine orator. He has a good conception of the law. He stated that Candidate does not indulge in liquor in any form. However, he is liberal in his views regarding prohibition but would have no hesitancy in prosecuting violators of the Eighteenth Amendment were he an Assistant United States Attorney.

Agent interviewed Mr. E. D. Webb, secretary of the law school of New York University, Washington Square, New York City, who examined their records and advised that same reflected Candidate was born in the United States December 10, 1902, attended public schools New York, graduated De Witt Clinton Highschool in 1920, after a four year course. He took up a course in commerce at the New York University, as well as a course in law at the New York University Law School, graduating therefrom in 1925. He received a L.L.B. His marks were about the average. He failed in one subject, Equity law, which, however, he made up the following term. His record as to character and reputation is good.

Miss Field, School of Commerce, Washington Square, New York City, consulted their records and advised that Candidate took a course in Italian February 1921 to June 1921. His work was very satisfactory and has no marks against his character or reputation.

X 3

Mr. A. Campbell, secretary Court of Appeals, Second District New York, examined papers on file relative to Candidate and the information confirmed that already furnished by Mr. Webb of the New York University concerning Candidate's age, school attendance, etc. Mr. Campbell advised that Candidate was admitted to the Bar, New York State July 2, 1926.

Agent interviewed Mr. Edward Corsi, U. S. Censor Supervisor and present director of the Harlem House, 311 East 116th Street, New York. Mr. Corsi stated that he has known Candidate for about five years; that Candidate attended Harlem House as a boy and became an active worker; has been a teacher in a citizenship class, adult group. He stated Candidate is president of the F. H. LaGuardia Republican Club, 249 East 116th Street; is also a member of the Republican Club at 163 East 116th Street, New York. He stated that Candidate is married and his wife, Mrs. Marcantonio, is assistant director of the Harlem House; that Candidate's father recently died and he has taken over a house at 235 East 116th Street, where he has a law office as well as an office at 20 Vesey Street. Candidate supports his mother and several members of his family. He advised that Candidate is a very fine, young man, honest, intelligent, and bears an excellent reputation; that he does not use liquor in any form. However, he is liberal in his views regarding prohibition and does not approve of the law. He stated that candidate has high ideals and would not have any scruples in prosecuting violators of the Eighteenth Amendment. He further stated that Candidate is fully qualified for the position sought as to character and reputation; that he has no knowledge of Candidate's ability as a lawyer.

Mrs. Elizabeth Lazzari, who is the president of the Finch School for Girls, 67 East 77th Street, New York City, was interviewed and she stated that she was formerly director of the Harlem House Social Center, 311 East 116th Street; that she became acquainted with Candidate about ten years ago; that at the time he was secretary of the Tenants League, which was formed for the protection of tenants in matters affecting rent difficulties; that Congressman LaGuardia was also very active at the time in connection with this League. She stated that Candidate has been associated with Harlem House activities for a number of years and was a member of the teacher's staff and had charge of the citizenship classes and did some very fine work in this connection. She stated that Candidate married Miss Marian Sanders, a descendant of the old Wentworth family of New Hampshire; that Mrs. Marcantonio is at present assistant director of the Harlem House . She stated that Candidate is an outstanding figure, fearless, honest and cannot be purchased; that he is very intelligent, a hard worker and that she has often marvelled at his vitality, as he works all hours of the night and hard work seems to be his recreation. She stated he is a born leader for good, a fine orator and one of the very few men she can recommend so highly. She stated she considers him a very good lawyer and a fighter and at present Candidate is handling a matter for her. Agent inquired of Mrs. Lazzari as to Candidate's views in connection with the Eighteenth Amendment.

Y 3

She replied that she knows how he feels about the Eighteenth Amendment but that she considered the question rather personal. She finally stated, however, that Candidate would take a glass of wine like all Italians, but that he is not by any means a drinker and has never in her ten years intimate touch with him seen him under the influence of liquor and she does not believe that he would indulge in whiskey. In connection with Candidate's opinion concerning the Eighteenth Amendment, she stated he is liberal like a great multitude of other good Americans and feels that the Eighteenth Amendment is not workable and is the cause of a great deal of crime. Mrs. Lazzari stated that she was a confirmed dry until she found that the law was causing a great deal of crime and she personally believes the Eighteenth Amendment should be amended and that Candidate feels the same way. She stated, however, that Candidate would enforce the law to the letter and has no hesitancy in recommending him as she believes he would be a valuable addition to the office of the United States Attorney. Mrs. Lazzari is a very high class, educated woman and is a cousin of Mrs. Finch, director of the Finch School for Girls, which is a high class private school for girls of the wealthy class.

Special Agent H. H. Reinecke interviewed Judges Knox and Woolsey of the U. S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and they both advised that they do not know Candidate.

Judge Mack of the same district was contacted by telephone through his secretary and he advised that he did not know Candidate. The remainder of the judges in the Southern District of New York were away on vacation and for that reason could not be interviewed.

CLOSED.

x 3

August 7, 1930.

WM:AMV
~~67-6640-3~~
RECORDED ~~100-28126-X2~~
100-28126-X3
AUG 8 1930

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL SISSON

With further reference to the case entitled: VITO MARCANTONIO - Candidate for Appointment as Assistant U. S. Attorney, Southern District of New York, there is attached hereto for your information, a copy of the report of Special Agent H. C. Leslie, dated August 4, 1930, at New York City, N. Y.

If there are any additional inquiries which you desire to be made in this connection, I shall be pleased to direct such further investigation as you may request.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Encl. #743299.

X3

KRM:CJ

February 17, 1941

PERSONAL AND
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

I am transmitting herewith a copy of a memorandum dated February 17, 1941, which I have today directed to the Attorney General concerning Congressman Vito Marcantonio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

100-24126-X4

RECORDED

[redacted]

[redacted]

5/30/41.

Sir, —

I'm just listened to Congressman Marcantonio's speech — at 7 p.m. E.D.S.T. tonight. I am indignant! Is there any reason to believe he is not "subversive"?

I think he should be investigated.

Sounds like "Fifth Column" to me, in spite of his "least leaning" stuff.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

[redacted]

INDEXED

SF

RECORDED

100-281-6-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

2 JUN 2 1941

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

C.D.

RECORDED & INDEXED

100-28126 -1
REL:vea

June 21, 1941

[redacted]

Dear Mr. [redacted]

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 30, 1941.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated, and you may be assured your letter will receive appropriate consideration.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc Newark, with copies of incoming letter

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

MAY 31, 1941

MR. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

YESTERDAY AFTERNOON ABOUT FIVE O'CLOCK I TUNED IN ON AN N B C STATION AND HEARD THE MOST RADICAL SPEECH I EVER HEARD IN MY LIFE AND IT WAS BY SOME CONGRESSMAN FROM NEW YORK AND HE TALKED LIKE AN ITALIAN.

ANY MAN WHO THINKS AND TALKS LIKE HE DID IS BOUND TO BE A FIFTH COLUMNIST AND I HOPE YOU WILL HAVE THE G MEN TAP HIS WIRES AND TRAIL HIM TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY AND SURELY HE WILL MAKE A FALSE MOVE SO YOU CAN PICK HIM UP.

YOURS TRULY,

[redacted]

RLG:MP

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 11, 1941

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour [redacted]
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

KRM:ELC

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: CONGRESSMAN VITO MARCANTONIO

I thought you might be interested in having the following information concerning the above named Congressman.

According to information appearing in the Communist press, Vito Marcantonio was a speaker at the Fourth Congress of American Writers, sponsored by the League of American Writers, in New York City, on June 6, 1941. In his speech, Marcantonio referred to the various individuals who have been persecuted by the state officials of Oklahoma for membership in the Communist Party. He referred to these individuals as "political defendants who are being railroaded to prison by American Hitlerites for the 'crime' of possessing legal political books." Marcantonio further declared:

"Those who oppose Hitlerism in America are persecuted and framed up.

"The people who are persecuting the Communist Party and the Communists are using in America the same vehicle in which Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini rode into power.

"I say there is no difference in the persecution of Thaelmann in Germany and the persecution of Browder in the United States.

"I go further and say it is the duty of every liberty-loving American to fight for democracy on the bridgehead today.

COPIES DESTROYED

RECORDED

INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 JUN 30 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON
NICHOLS
BEAHM
GANDY

CH-2

"With the crushing of the constitutional rights of the Communist Party begins the offensive against the constitutional rights of all the rest of the people of the United States."

This information was taken from the Sunday Worker, for June 8, 1941, page 3.

Respectfully,

P. E. Foxworth

3

Writers Congress Scores War Drive; Theodore Dreiser Gets Peace Award

Opening Rally Cheers Marcantonio Talk; Hold Rally Today 3

By Art Shields

Some of the boldest and clearest attacks against the imperialist war are being made at the Fourth Congress of American Writers, which opened with a rally of 3,500 people in Manhattan Center Friday night. Important novelists, playwrights and poets are pulling no punches in their denunciation of the butchery for markets that is now going on in the name of "democracy."

They feel, as Dashiell Hammett so well put it in his Friday night speech, that the war-makers are out to "kill all that is good and true and honest in American life."

DEFEND CULTURE

They fervently agreed, with tremendous applause, when John Howard Lawson, noted playwright, said the same night that:

"Writers and artists recognize the defense of culture as inseparable from the defense of democracy.

"Writers and artists see this war as a brutal, tragic and corrupt scramble for world markets."

And the writers fittingly chose as their climatic speaker, Friday night, the Congressman who is leading the fight in Washington against imperialist war.

"PEOPLE'S POLITICIAN"

"I'm not an intellectual," said Vito Marcantonio, the guest speaker. "I'm just a plain people's politician from East Harlem. I welcome the help of the writers and artists in the fight."

Marcantonio said the presence of so many writers and artists on the picket lines in this critical period is encouraging the workers in their struggles.

In tune with his remarks a group of writers the next noon took part in the regular Saturday mass

DASHIELL HAMMETT

Jewish "Day" at 183 E. Broadway, picketing in front of the struck

The pickets were led by Donald Ogden Stewart, president of the League for American Writers, and Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," the League's vice president.

ART YOUNG PRESENT

Honored names in the world of art and letters are taking part in this broad campaign against the enemies of peace and culture.

Art Young, the famous artist, who risked prison in World War I for his defiance of the imperialists, was not strong enough to take the platform Friday night and make the speech he had intended. But Art stood up at the front of the hall to receive the heartfelt greetings of the audience.

The greetings became a standing cheering ovation that lasted several minutes.

Theodore Dreiser was unable to come East for the Congress, but he sent his warm greetings.

GIVEN AWARD

The League of American Writers, which called the Congress, had just given Dreiser the Randolph Bourne Memorial Award because he is fighting for peace in the spirit of Randolph Bourne, the brilliant anti-war writer of 1917.

And Dreiser in his greetings to the Congress said:

"Because I have so long [illegible]

1807

This is a clipping from page 3 of the SUNDAY WORKER for

Clipped at the Seat of Government

affectionately honored my great and good friend, Randolph Bourne, I will be delighted to receive this tribute that bears his name, for his conception of the democratic simplicity of Americans, their love of peace and progress, as well as his hope for the welfare and peace of all living things, makes me wish to possess the memorial award that bears the name of one who wrote and worked as he thought for the good of all sincerely and gratefully."

SCORES TRAITORS

Rockwell Kent, president of the United American Artists, and a well known writer himself, scored the weaklings and traitors who had deserted the struggle for progress and peace at the first moment of danger.

Marcantonio spoke as president of the International Labor Defense as well as a "people's politician from East Harlem."

As president of the ILD he called on the people before him to come to the aid of the Oklahoma political defendants who are being railroaded to prison by American Hitlerites for the "crime" of possessing legal political books.

"Those who oppose Hitlerism in America are persecuted and framed up," said the Labor Congressman.

CITES BROWDER CASE

"The people who are persecuting the Communist Party and the Communists are using in America the same vehicle in which Adolph Hitler and Benito Mussolini rode into power," he declared.

"I say there is no difference in the persecution of a Thaelmann in Germany—and the persecution of a Browder in the United States.

"I go further and say it is the duty of every liberty-loving American to fight for democracy on the bridgehead today.

"With the crushing of the constitutional rights of the Communist Party begins the offensive against the constitutional rights of all the rest of the people of the United States."

Well-attended panel discussions were held by artists, fiction writers, radio writers, critics, labor journalists and young writers at the Hotel Commodore yesterday.

Michael Gold discussed the proletarian literary renaissance that culminated in books like "Grapes of Wrath," and "Native Son" at the afternoon Critics' Session, presided over by Samuel Sillen.

Herbert Aptheker talked on the Negro's contribution to American culture. Edwin Perry Burgum spoke on "The Problem of Standards in Literary Criticism."

During the discussion, several writers from the floor emphasized the pioneer work of the John Reed Clubs in the early 1930's, in preparing the way for the League of American Writers and the American Writers Congress.

3

RPK:TD July 28, 1941

PERSONAL ~~AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

I am transmitting herewith for your consideration a custodial detention dossier which has been prepared concerning Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York.

In view of the special circumstances in this case, I am transmitting the dossier to you rather than to the Special Defense Unit and I should appreciate your advice as to whether a copy should be furnished to the Special Defense Unit.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Inclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
RECEIVED
JUL 29 1941
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-18

RECORDED 100-26126-4

AUG 4 1941

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Beahm
Miss [redacted]

General Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

GMA:dml

July 21, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

There is attached hereto for approval a Custodial Detention card relating to Vito Marcantonio.

The attached card is being submitted specially in view of the subject's position as a member of the House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. It is believed that you may desire to send copies of this card to Mr. Matthew F. McGuire, The Assistant to the Attorney General, in place of sending copies to Mr. L. M. C. Smith, Chief, Special Defense Unit.

Respectfully,

R. P. Kramer

R. P. Kramer

Attachment

Forwarded to Mr. McGuire

RECORDED

INDEXED

3 AUG 16 1941

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOXWORTH

CIT-24

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

TWD:KM

Washington, D. C.
August 15, 1941

PERSONAL
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

ATTENTION: MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

RE: CONGRESSMAN VITO MARCANTONIO
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Dear Sir:

For the Bureau's information, please be advised that a check of the indices of the Washington Field Division reflects that Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO is listed on the indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and the American Peace Mobilization.

Very truly yours,

S. K. McKee

S. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED
INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
8 AUG 22 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILED

Memo to Mr. Jones
8/28/41 E.W.T.

EKT:MAL

100-28126-6

RECORDED

August 28, 1941

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

Reference is made to my memorandum dated July 28, 1941, with which I forwarded a dossier concerning Congressman Vito Marcantonio of New York.

The Washington Field Office of this Bureau has recently received information indicating that the name of Congressman Marcantonio is listed on the active indices of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the American Peace Mobilization.

This information is being brought to your attention in order that you may be fully advised concerning the data received at this Bureau in connection with the activities of Government Employees.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Mr. Tolson
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. [redacted]
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boone
Mr. Coroon
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

GH-22

AUG 29 1941
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

112

Department of Justice

Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General

Washington

August 7, 1941

~~Confidential~~

MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This refers to your memorandum of July 28, transmitting a custodial detention dossier concerning Congressman Vito Marcantonio.

In response to your inquiry, you are advised that a copy of the dossier should not be furnished to the Special Defense Unit.

Being a citizen the Congressman naturally is not subject to internment as an alien enemy in the event of war. If he should commit any acts which would constitute violations of a Federal criminal statute, the matter can be considered at that time with a view to possible prosecutive action.

While the dossier undoubtedly reveals some very reprehensible statements on various occasions on the part of the Congressman, such statements were made prior to the passage of the Alien Registration Act of 1940, Title I of which makes the making of certain subversive statements a crime.

Matthew F. McGuire

Matthew F. McGuire
The Assistant to the Attorney General.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

September 27, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: VITO MARCANTONIO
INVESTIGATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES
INTERNAL SECURITY (HATCH ACT)

Dear Sir:

In compliance with Bureau Bulletin No. 35, dated August 21, 1941, a review of the files of this office has been made and the following information concerning the subject is reflected herein:-

Sometime during October, 1940, a confidential informant of the New York Field Division advised that the subject was legal adviser of the National Maritime Union and advised holding a meeting for coast-wise delegates of this Communist-dominated union. This information was furnished to the Bureau in a report by Special Agent W. R. GRIFFIN, at New York City, dated February 18, 1941.

Information derived from a circular furnished this office indicated that the subject was the principal speaker on "Twentieth Century Challenge to Our Bill of Rights & How to Meet It", at Town Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., on April 19, 1940, which meeting was sponsored by the Committee for People's Rights. A report of the Pennsylvania Motor Police advised that subject was to have been the principal speaker on July 3, 1941 at Town Hall, Philadelphia, at a meeting of the Seventh American Youth Congress, but for some reason, was unable to attend and subsequently, did not speak. Subject is suspected of being a member of the Communist Party.

No further investigation is contemplated by this office unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

J. F. SEARS
Special Agent in Charge

101-257
AAA:mvd

No action
See file

WASHINGTON CITY NEWS SERVICE

OCT. 10 6.52 PM '41
RECEIVED

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Lacey
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Gurnea
Miss Gandy

Bx Kramer
McGuire
Mr. Mohr Curtis

Vito

REP. MARCANTONIO VOTED FOR THE $5,895,000,000 LEND-LEASE BILL. HE HAS VOTED AGAINST VIRTUALLY EVERY DEFENSE APPROPRIATION BEFORE CONGRESS SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE PRESENT WAR.
10/10--RP549P

198

NOT RECORDED
100-28126

al Bureau of Investiga

United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

GPD:MEB

December 24, 1941.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: VITO MARCANTONIO
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

There is being transmitted herewith a photostatic copy of the report of [redacted] who has not as yet been designated as a confidential informant by this office, and also a photostatic copy of the speech of the above named individual which was distributed by pamphlet, reprinted by the American Peace Mobilization Movement which pamphlet was secured by Boyle.

One copy of these photostats is being maintained in the file of the New York office for information, and one copy of these photostats is being placed in the New York file on [redacted]

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

Enclosures.
cc: New York file 65-S521 (Encs.)

COPIES DESTROYED

COPY IN FILE

6 FEB 1942

Re: [illegible] Marcantonio

Personal Background: He was born in New York [illegible] Dec 16 1902, son of Samuel and Angelina (DeDobits) Marcantonio. Graduated DeWitt Clinton High School in 1921. Got his LLB at NYU Law School in 1925. May 30, the same year he married Miss Miriam M. Sanders. He lives at 1878 Lexington Avenue NY. His business address is Pinto & Marcantonio-20 Vesey St. He is a protege and former law partner of LaGuardia.

Early Background: 1926 he was admitted to the NY Bar. From 1924-32 he was LaGuardias campaign manager. 1930-33 he was U.S. attorney. 1926 he was arrested with LaGuardia for picketing in a dress strike. He represents Bronx 20th (east Harlem) district in Congress. He was first elected in 1934 on the Rep. ticket. Served 11 years. Re-elected in 1938 with the endorsement of the Liberal Party. The Republican nomination came within 185 votes of getting it. Nomination despite the fact that the ALP which originally endorsed him (38) repudiated the backing, calling him out and out red and despite the fact that Pisciotello (Local [illegible]) went into his district to prove that he was not the Communist party candidate.

As a young lawyer he handled several criminal cases and in many cases dropped pleas. Four years ago he was taken into protective custody in NY after leading 1200 relief workers against 400 cops in a riot at Madison Sq Garden. On May 14-38 he defended Longo in the Jersey City election case. At one time was counsel for the Window Washers Union. Rep. dep. in City Trust Comp. failure in 29.

Record and Sidenotes: He is on record as OPPOSING the Selective Service Bill-the Alien Registration Act July-29 he said-"The Check on Aliens imitates Hitler." He voted against Naval Expansion and Air Defense April. He went on record opposing the Rules Committee 1/1/39-the Rules Comm. is the forerunner of Fascism) and had a good reason for doing so because in Oct 28-39 Hitlow, the Commun appearing before the Rules Committee, said that the INTERNATIONAL LABOR DEFENSE-an organization of which Marcantonio was the head (still is) was the MAIN SUPPORT OF THE DAILY WORKER-the Communist paper. Later in San Francisco Hitlow again mentioned the kind (Marcantonio's outfit) on numerous occasions during the Bridges hearing. He also said "The Communists are taking orders from Moscow and want to Rule Unions." The day appeared prominently in the minutes of the hearing. All of which is important because it sheds light on his actions soon after he entered Congress. See for yourself:

March-28-35 - He objected to the strengthening of the West Coast Naval resources, claiming that it was "Deliberately waving a red rag in the Pacific ocean and as such was extremely dangerous."

June 16-35 - Discussing Congress's too reactionary to pass Labor Bills. "Word of the Communist party was on the same bill with him."

Aug 13-35: He proposed an amendment for the U.S. Govt. to take over almost any industry that is busted and operated it for the benefit of the people.

Aug 15-35: When the navy tried to settle a shipyard strike in Camden, New Jersey, he called their proposal "An outrage and conspiracy against the strikers."

AUGUST [illegible] more [illegible]

September 25-35-

When the radio operators of steamships struck he said- "Reactionaries form a united front against labor. Labor should combat by STRIKING COMPLETELY WHEREVER COUNTRY to protect its existence."

March 12-36- His advice to tenants in Harlem apartment houses, where the building employees were on strike was- "Don't pay the landlords any rent until the building employees in their strike."

May 10-38 "He was mixed in the fur strike - Feb. 1-38 he defended Gerson's appointment in a Harlem Rally - Nov. 22-38 He said NAZIASM MUST BE SMASHED." (Note that he always rants against the Naz-& Fasci- but NEVER against the Commys" (

Jan. 29-40 - He said the DIES COMM. IS UNDERMINING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE DISSIDENT MINORITIES."

Feb. 9-10- All senators and representatives who attended the American Youth Congress meeting went on record against the infiltration of the Young Communists League into the American Youth Congress." That is, all except Marcantonio.

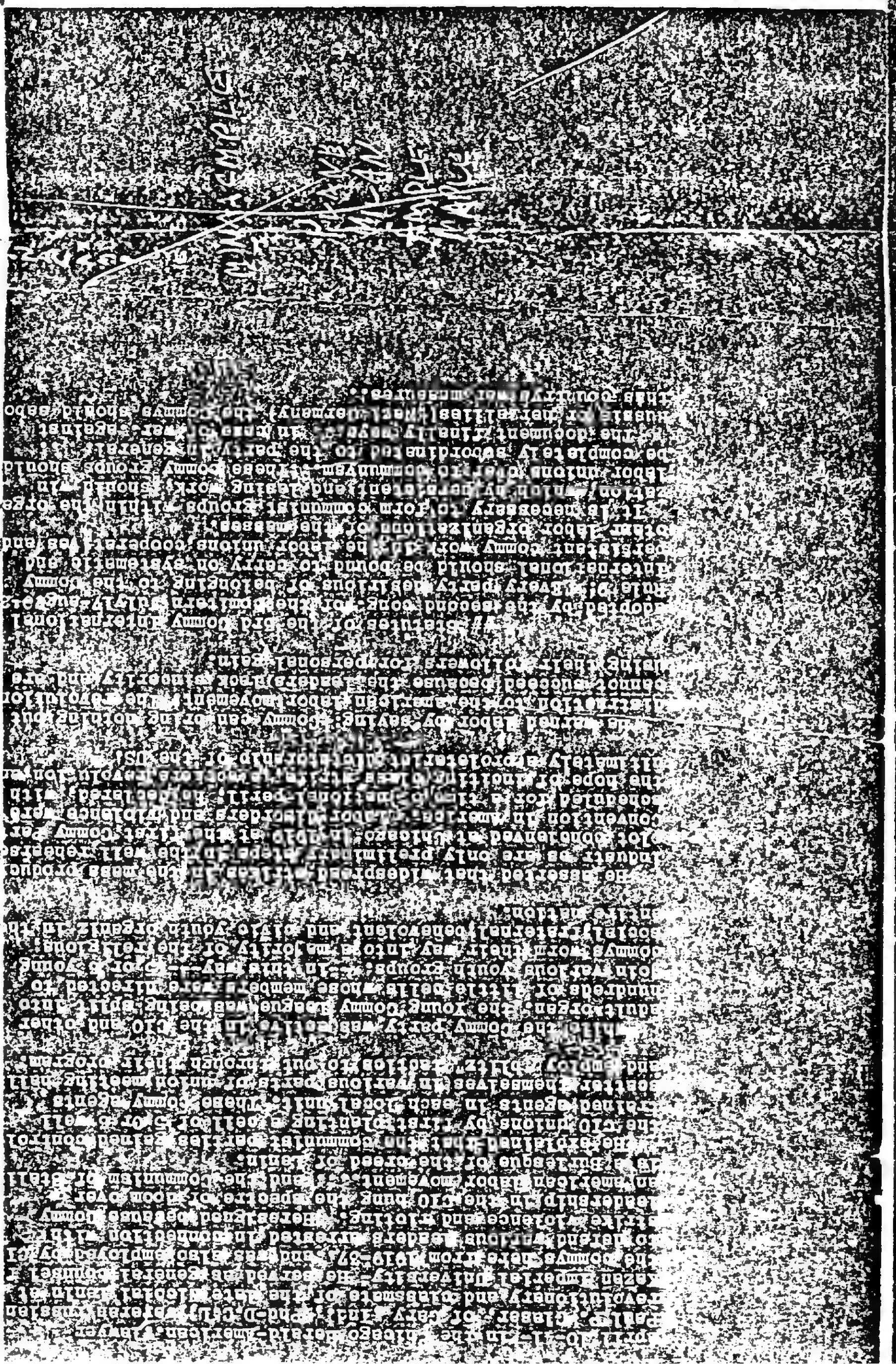
June 2-40 - An A.P. release from Wash later filled in end of the "Times," M. bet a newspaperman that we would be in war by July 15-40- The date of the Dem. Nat. Convention - "If the war was still on."

March 10-41 - At the Medos Temple M. declared that the attack on Hamilton was all a part of a drive to plunge this country into war."

March 7-41- He spoke with Curran at Manhattan Center against Lend-Lease Bill.

March 25-41- Over 5,000 people at the Garden hissed LaGuardia's name and cheered M. when he called for the defeat of the "WALL STREET-DOWNINGSTREET AXIS." Schappes, the City College tutor now out on bail was a RED was there too.

April 3-41 He went on record as the sole objector (vote 324-1) of the House Military and Naval Affairs Committee Resolution to investigate the wave of strikes imperiling this nation's defense programs. He proposed the House of setting up a Strike breaking agency.



[illegible]

[illegible] Pulitzer Prize winner Bernard Malamud, who died last March at age 70, was a good man and a good writer. Malamud's novels and short stories, which dealt with the Jewish experience in America, were marked by a kind of gentle humanity that was rare in a time when the prevailing mood was one of cynicism and despair. Malamud's best-known novel, The Fixer, was a powerful indictment of Russian anti-Semitism in the years before the Revolution. Malamud's last novel, God's Grace, published posthumously, was a fable about the last survivor of a nuclear holocaust who is given a second chance by God to populate the world with a new race of men. Malamud's last novel, God's Grace, published posthumously, was a fable about the last survivor of a nuclear holocaust who is given a second chance by God to populate the world with a new race of men.

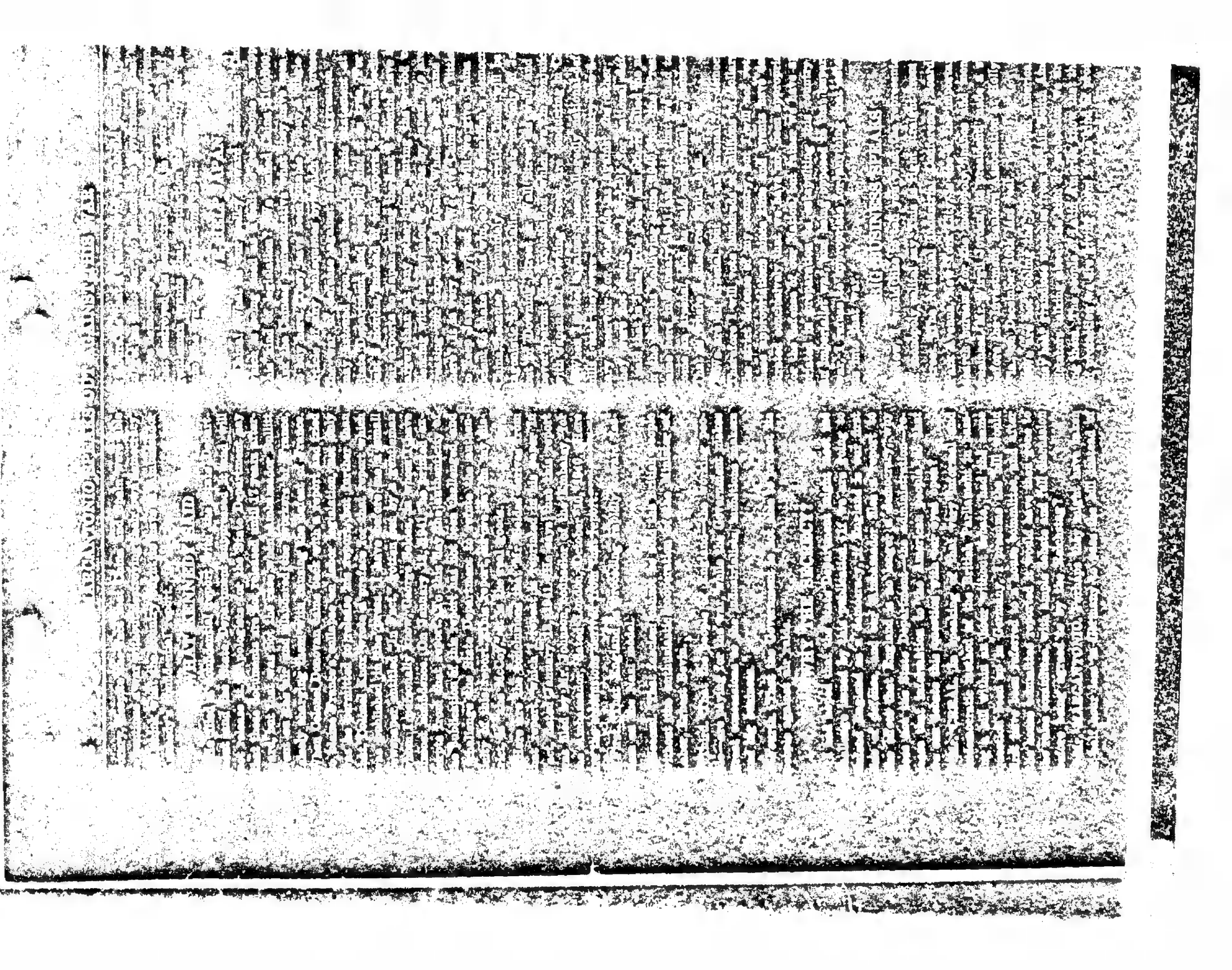
Meeting, N.Y.C. April

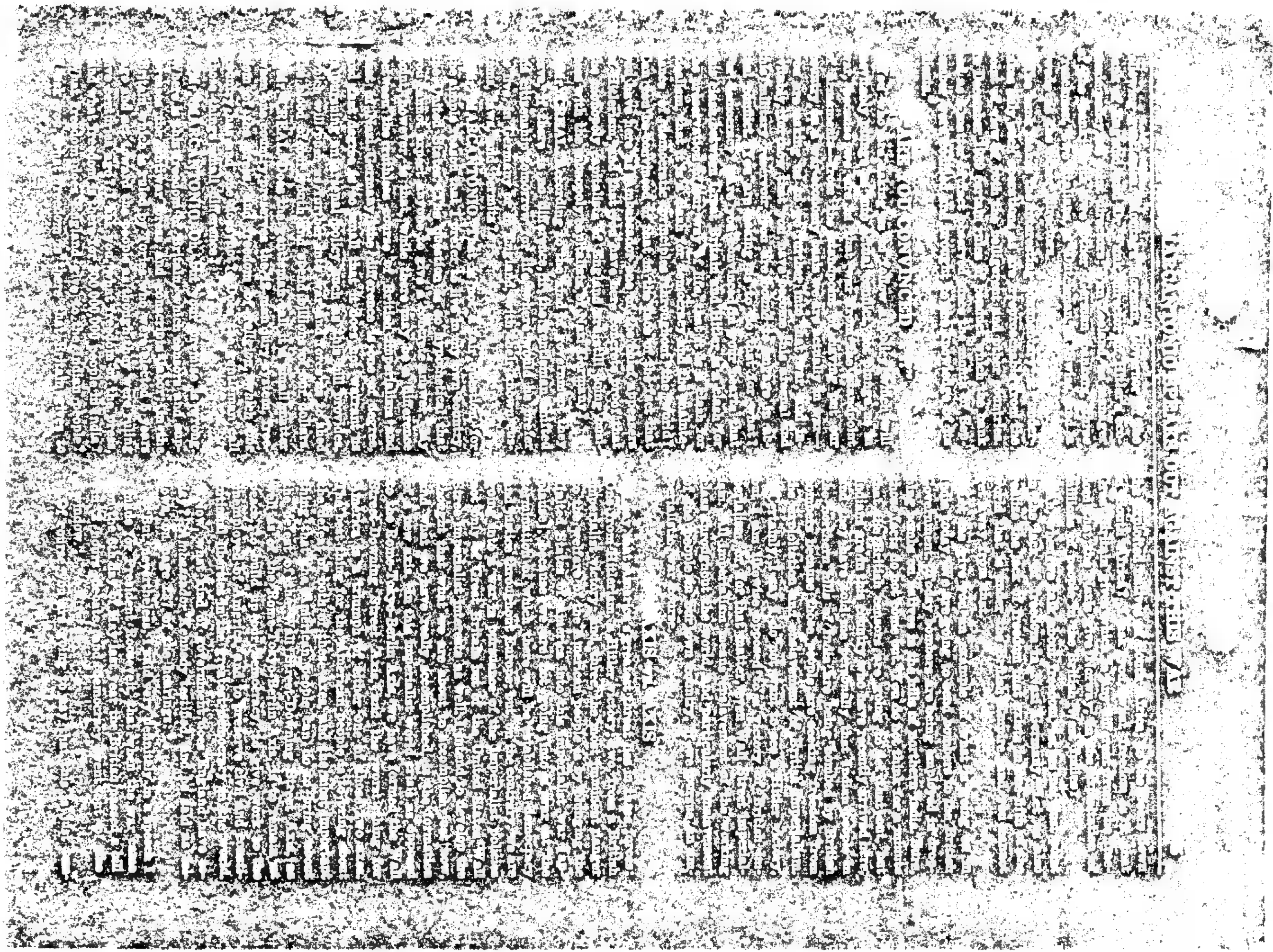
VOICE OF THE SPRINGBOK

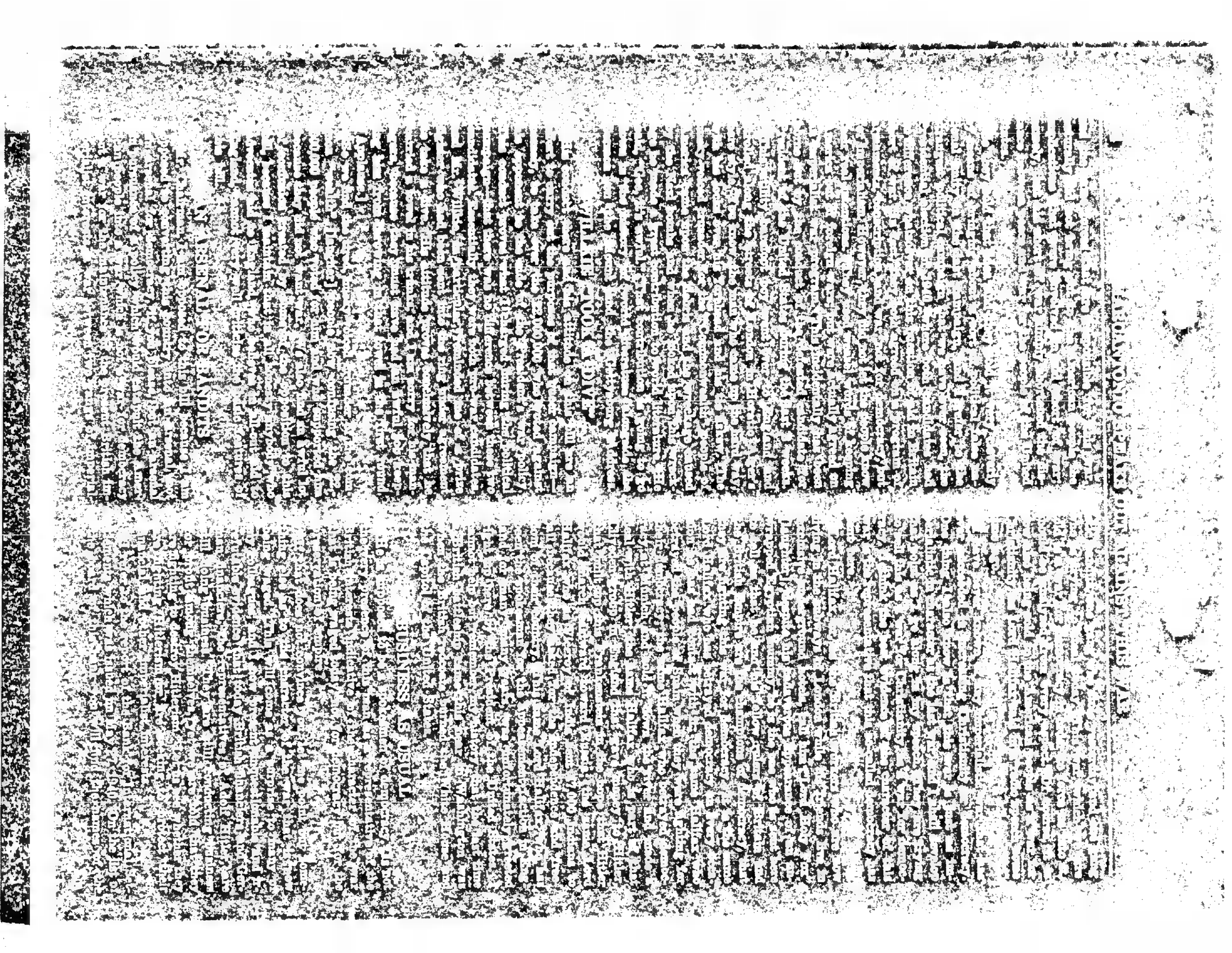
APPROVED FOR THE RELEASE, 2001/08/30 : CIA-RDP

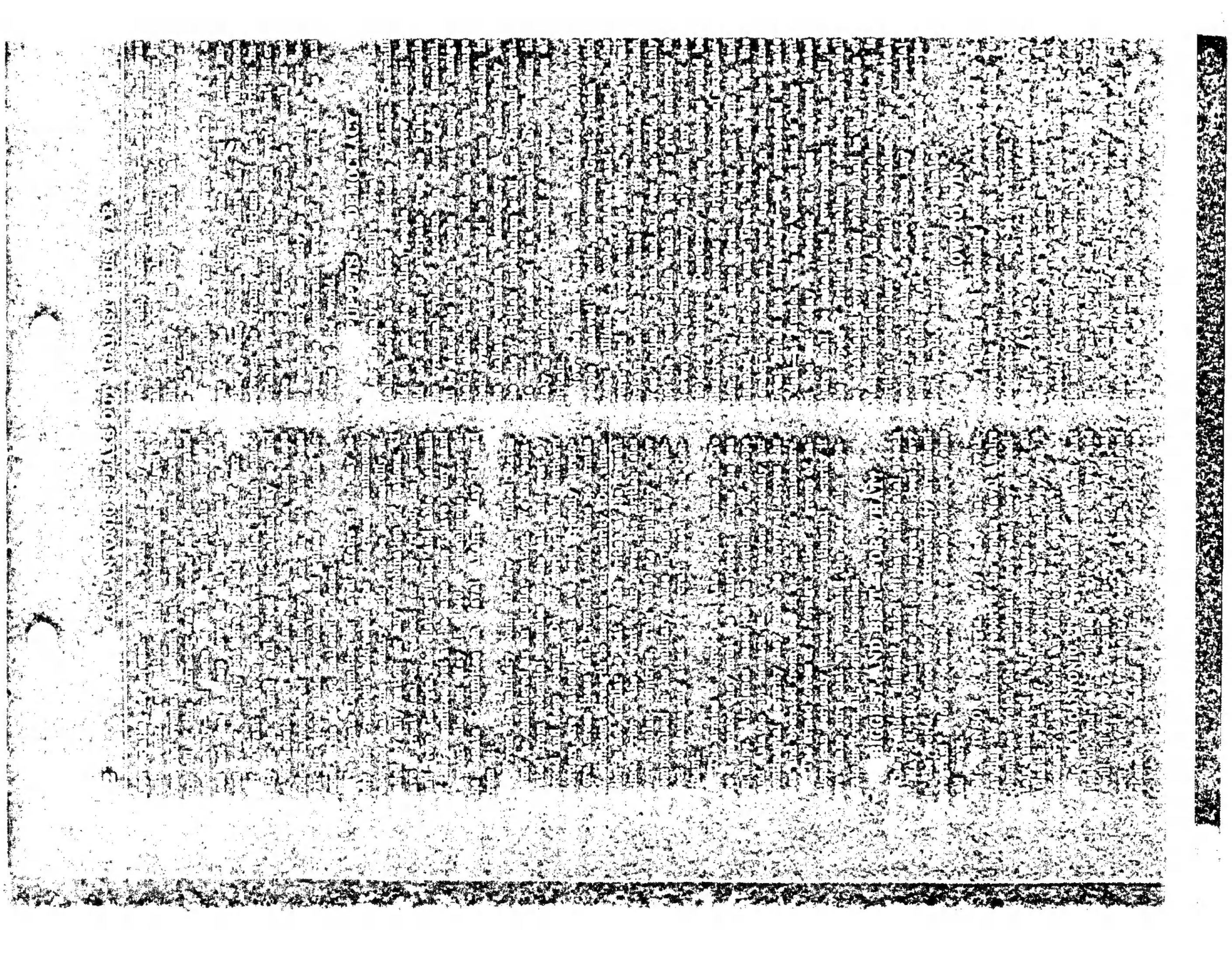
COMMENTARY FROM THE

Congressional Record









ngressman Vito Marcantonio
eaks Out Against This War

February 5 Congressman Vito Marcantonio rose on the floor of the House and delivered ic speech against the war, speaking against HR 1776, the Lend-Lease Bill, [illegible] named names. He revealed for the first time in Congress documents which the Ad- tion had tried to hush up. He hammered home fact upon fact which nobody could either refute. He unfolded for America the real, rank, inside story of how and why we are being into war against the wishes of 85% of the people.

was a great speech—and one every American must read and understand. Here it is. Study are—and then Speak Out For Peace.

—The American Peace Mobilization.

ARCANTONIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise at this ot only to explain my opposition to this bill repeat the reasons I have advanced in the opposition to similar legislation and [illegible]

found myself in the position where I have against this type of legislation and priations on five different occasions. I did I am opposed to the defense of my coun- tions, and its people. I did so not because national defense. I am for national de- [illegible] national defense. My opposition to is based on the proposition that we are and we are not appropriating for defense, and we are appropriating for [illegible] not of a sound policy for defense, in a policy of defending our shores, de- stitutions, defending our people, but in program of launching this country into defense, not for democracy, but for [illegible]

[illegible] program began on May 16 when the United States addressed the joint [illegible] and asked tremendous appropria- munitions, and all sorts of armaments. [illegible] that it was the beginning of a blitz- [illegible] and freedom of the American peo- was similar to and tragically [illegible] paredness days of 1916. In 1916 a similar [illegible] was sold to the American people [illegible] word of preparedness. Now it has American people under the catch-all defense. [illegible] that these armaments would be used [illegible] own momentum would catapult [illegible] submit that time and events have position a correct one. [illegible] has been the appropriation of $17 [illegible] that also we are going to appropriate [illegible] were converting our country into [illegible] reservoir to be used by one side [illegible] this bill and [illegible] international [illegible] was bound by its own mo- mentum to plunge us into war. It was bound to lead us step by step into a program of armaments, conscription, war, and dictatorship; step by step we have witnessed the march of events in that program.

[illegible] see what has happened since May 16, 1940. [illegible] in May and in June that these armaments were con- verting this country into a military reservoir to be used by one side against the other. When the President ad- dressed this session of Congress he did not use the term "military reservoir" but did say that we were to become an arsenal for democracy. No honest person can dispute that point. We have been and are becoming more and more with blitzkrieg speed an arsenal or military reservoir for one side as against the other in an imperialist and commercial war. It is just a question of time before man- power will have to be utilized in the furtherance of the arsenal plan or the military reservoir plan, as I called it back in June, 1940.

Once we have become an arsenal for [illegible] military reservoir, from an economic and armaments [illegible] point we are actually in war, and you cannot get away from that. When we are going to [illegible] is a question of time, but from the standpoint of being actually in war on one side and against the other, [illegible] as a result of having become a military [illegible] arsenal through the medium of armaments for which we [illegible] asked to vote again today. Thus the issue presented by this bill and all similar legislation and appropriations [illegible] not defense as you have been calling it but the further [illegible] of a military reservoir or arsenal program for war [illegible] an imperialist war.

[illegible] stated at that time [illegible] [illegible] when we had the first bill here I said that the next step would be conscription. Nobody believed me then, but conscription came, and came so fast that the American people did not even have an opportunity to analyze the proposal that converted 1,000,000 men into 17,000,000 numbers.

[illegible] from conscription on we [illegible] We see that [illegible] every action that has been taken by either the Congress [illegible] the President and by those [illegible] responsibility [illegible] to place it in [illegible] [illegible] the direction of going into war [illegible] told [illegible] appropriating [illegible]

[illegible] bulk orders of this pamphlet [illegible]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Drayton
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Mr. Tracy
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

KRM:rb

December 31, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. R. P. KRAMER

Re: REPRESENTATIVE VITO MARCANTONIO

In a pamphlet styled "Should America Go To War" by Vito Marcantonio, he made the following statement:

"I believe that the war of 1939-1940 up to June, 1941 was an Imperialist War."

Since June 22, 1941, Marcantonio stated that it was no longer an imperialist war but it was one "which is now essential to our national defense."

"At no time during my constant opposition to the Imperialist War did I base my opposition on reasons of pacifism. I have at all times stated that if I had believed that the war then was a war of defense, that if the war then was a war for democracy, I would have voted not only for 16 billion or 65 billion, but I was ready not only to vote the entire Treasury of the United States for the prosecution of such a war, but also for active participation in such a war. Why has the character of the war changed? What are the reasons which lead me to believe that a war which was predominantly imperialistic has become essentially a war of national defense for the people of the United States?

"The first reason is one of geography. A look at the map will demonstrate that a conquered Soviet Union would place a Nazi military bridgehead

cc w/ attached Department Liberman by letter 1-15-42 JOHN F. C.

within rowboat distance of our own Northwestern shores, Alaska. You cannot get away from that. Secondly, in the war of 1940 and the early part of 1941, Hitler could not move against the Western Hemisphere. We were not in military danger as Hitler had on his western boundary a powerful, well armed Soviet Union. The defense interests of the United States and the Soviet Union were interdependent. The existence of the Soviet Union depended on an unconquered United States. The existence of the United States depended on an unconquered Soviet Union. A Hitler conquest of either made a Hitler conquest of the other almost a certainty."

This speech was made on October 16, 1941, as is shown in the New York Times index.

Respectfully,

K. R. McIntire

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